

## Rifaximin (Normix<sup>®</sup>)

### Abstract

#### Efficacy and Safety of Short-term Administration of Rifaximin in the Treatment of Hepatic Encephalopathy

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**Background/Aims:** A prospective, randomized study was performed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the short-term administration of rifaximin in the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy. **Methods:** Of the 64 patients diagnosed as having decompensated liver cirrhosis with hepatic encephalopathy, 39 patients were randomized to receive rifaximin and 25 patients to receive lactulose for seven days. Before and after the treatment we assessed changes in the level of serum ammonia, flapping tremor, patient's mental status, number connection test (NCT), and hepatic encephalopathy indices. **Results:** In rifaximin-treated group, the mean grade of serum ammonia (1.8 0.9), mental status (1.3 0.3), NCT (3.0 2.0), and flapping tremor (1.7 0.4) were improved after treatment. In the lactulose-treated group, the mean grade of serum ammonia (1.9 1.0), mental status (1.5 0.5), NCT (3.3 2.1), and flapping tremor (1.4 0.3) were improved after treatment. Side effects of abdominal pain (rifaximin group) and excessive diarrhea (lactulose group) were noted in 2 cases. The efficacy of treatment was not significantly different between rifaximin and lactulose-treated groups (84.3% vs. 95.3%). **Conclusion:** Rifaximin was as efficient and safe in the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy as lactulose in terms of efficacy. Rifaximin may be useful drug for the short-term treatment of hepatic encephalopathy. (Korean J Hepatol 2001;7:55-60)

**Key Words:** Rifaximin, Hepatic encephalopathy

◇ 2000 9 25 ; 2000 12 13 ; 2001 1 8

◇ Abbreviations: HE, hepatic encephalopathy; NCT, number connection test

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가 12 , , 7

가 , 64

10 가 54

가 26 , 28

가 10 , 가 13 ,

lactulose 가 5 , 가 10 ,

3 , 13

neomycin

lactulose

2.

3 : 2

rifaximin (32 ) lactulose (22 )

rifaximin

Rifaximin (Normix<sup>®</sup>) 가 1200 mg #3 , lactulose 90 mL

#3 7

macrolide

4

(flapping tremor),

rifaximin

lactulose

Conn

Parsons-Smith

Grade 0 Grade IV 5

5 Grade 0 ( ), Grade I

(±), Grade II ( ), Grade III (

) 4 , Grade 0 (<30

), Grade I (31-50 ), Grade II (51-80 ), Grade

III (81-120 ), Grade IV (<121

) 5 7,8

75 µg /dL Grade 0 (<75 µg/dL), Grade I (76-150 µg

Grade I-III /dL), Grade II (151-200 µg/dL), Grade III

(201-250 µg/dL), Grade IV (>251 µg/dL) 5

9

64

가 , rifamycin

**Table 1.** Clinical and Laboratory Characteristics of the Patients

	Rifaximin (N=32)	Lactulose (N=22)	<i>p</i> value
Age (yr)	56.2±7.1	54.9±6.6	NS
Male/Female	24 : 8	13 : 9	NS
Albumin (g/dL)	2.82±0.45	3.08±0.49	NS
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	5.85±5.23	5.13±6.08	NS

가 1. Rifaximin 54, lactulose 22. rifaximin 32, lactulose 22. 55.7 (40-71), 37, 17, (0-4) × 3 + (0-4) + (0-3) + (0-4) (1). 2. Rifaximin 1.8, 0.9, 1.3, 0.3, 1.7, 0.4, 3.0, 2.0, 10.5, 4.2 (2). Lactulose 1.9, 1.0, 1.5, 0.5, 1.4, 0.3, 3.3, 2.1, 11.3, 5.0. paired t-test, 가 (2).

**Table 2.** Comparison of Clinical Parameters between the Two Groups

	Rifaximin			Lactulose		
	Pre Tx	Post Tx	<i>p</i> value	Pre Tx	Post Tx	<i>p</i> value
Serum ammonia	1.8±0.9	0.9±0.9	<0.01	1.9±0.9	1.0±0.9	<0.01
HE grade	1.3±0.7	0.3±0.4	<0.01	1.5±0.8	0.5±0.7	<0.01
Asterixis	1.7±0.8	0.4±0.6	<0.01	1.4±0.8	0.3±0.7	<0.01
NCT	3.0±1.0	2.0±1.2	<0.01	3.3±0.9	2.1±1.1	<0.01
HE index	10.0±3.9	4.2±2.7	<0.01	11.3±3.9	5.0±4.1	<0.01

HE, hepatic encephalopathy; NCT, number connection test;  
 HE index = HE index X 3 + NCT + asterixis + serum ammonia (0-23 ).  
 The efficacy of treatment was not significantly different between two groups.

**Table 3.** Comparison between the Two Groups According to Serum Ammonia, HE Grade and HE Index

	Rifaximin (N=32)	Lactulose (N=22)	<i>p</i> value
Improvement of serum ammonia	25(78%)	13(59%)	0.13
Improvement of HE grade	26(81%)	16(72%)	0.51
HE index			
Improvement	27(84.3%)	21(95.4%)	NS
Unchanged	2(6.2%)	1(4.5%)	NS
Progression	3(5.5%)	0(0%)	NS

NS, not significant.

3.

rifaximin 25  
(78%), 26 (81%), lactulose  
13 (59%), 16 (72%)  
84.3%, lactulose 95.4%  
가  
가 ( 3).

4.

64 가 10

54

rifaximin 1  
, lactulose 가 1

Rifaximin rifamycin

*Salmonella, E. coli*

neomycin

rifaximin

lactulose

rifaximin 25  
(78%), 26 (81%), lactulose 13  
(59%), 16 (72%)

rifaximin 84.3%, lactulose  
95.4% 가

가 ,

15 21  
rifaximin neomycin,

lactulose

. DiPiazza Pedretti  
가 rifaximin

neomycin lactulose

rifaximin

. <sup>10,11</sup> Massa 40

rifaximin lactulose 15

rifaximin 6 ,

lactulose 9 .

,<sup>12</sup> Bucci 30

rifaximin lactulose 15 rifaximin lactulose

lactulose rifaximin .

rifaximin

,<sup>13</sup> rifaximin 가 .

Puxeddu 55

가 6

rifaximin lactulose

:

,<sup>14</sup> rifaximin

rifaximin 49 6 lactulose

rifaximin neomycin 75 g/dL

, 가 Grade I-III

54 .

, 7

,<sup>15</sup> 7

lactulose (84.3%) (95.4%) rifaximin

가 rifaximin (32 ) lactulose

가 rifaximin (22 ) 7

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, ,

10 , , 가 : 1)

, 55.7 (40-71) , 37 , 17

. 2) Rifaximin

, , ,

가 , , ,

. 3) Lactulose

. Miglio , , ,

25 rifaximin , ,

가 1 ,<sup>15</sup> . 4)

39 rifaximin 1 가 rifaximin

, 25 lactulose 78%, 81% , lactulose

가 1 . 59%, 72% (P=0.132). 5)

, 1 가 (P=0.84). 6)

rifaximin rifaximin

. Lactulose 84.3%, lactulose 95.4%

, (P=0.383). :

rifaximin

lactulose

: , Rifaximin

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